POPULATION AND RELIGION

77 Mixed marriages are common in spite of the vast differences between Moslems and Christians.

162 Tirana, the capital, has about 35,000 in-
361 habitants, Durazzo (Durrës), the main port
504 of Albania, has 9,739, Valona (Vlona), second important port of Albania, 9,110, Elbasan 13,800, Scutari (Shkodra) 29,209, Argyrocastro (Gjinokastra) 12,500, Korça 25,000, Berat 10,500, Pogradec 3,400, Leskovik 2,500, Permet 3,000, Santi Quaranta (Saranda), the third port of Albania, 2,000, Delvina 4,000, Fier 3,700, Kruja, Kukës, Prizren Peshkopi, Dibër, Libohova, Kavaja, Lesh, Butrinto, Lushnja, Llixha, etc., are also well populated. San Giovanni di Medua is the fourth port of Albania. Butrinto Bay is also a harbour, measuring about a mile by 1,300 yards and has very good anchorage in 14 and 16 fathoms.

504

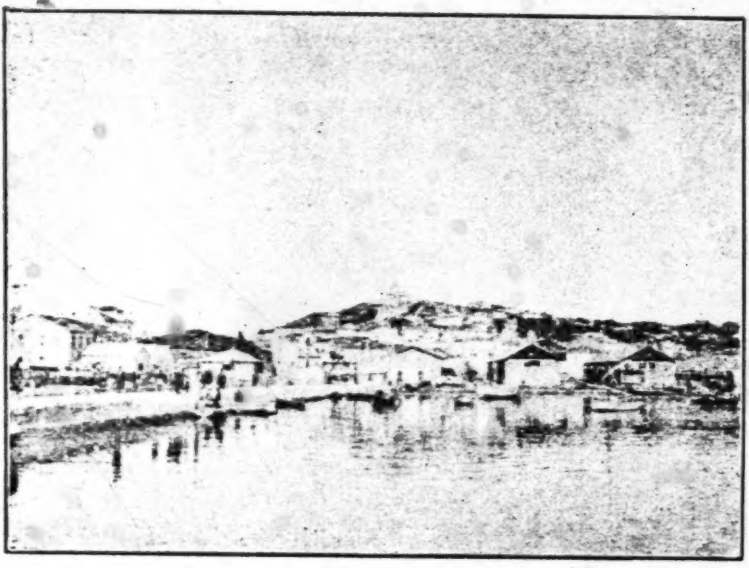
PORTO PALERMO (HIMARA)

(facing p 118)

3 Redlich S-3. (no date) 1936 EG1 Albania EG1

and this influence also had left its mark on the town. Then came the Anjous of the Neapolitan line who were the first to assume for themselves the title of King of Albania. However, during the four hundred years of Turkish domination, some of the Byzantine and Venetian architecture was altered or destroyed by the invaders. To-day, picturesque Durazzo lies peacefully on the Adriatic converted into a thriving modern city, amid all of its interesting ruins, with an ideal port that has become a growing center for both sea-going and general trade, and the largest cigarette factory in Albania is located here.

504 ●



THE PORT OF DURAZZO

(facing P. 130)

3: Redlich S-3 (no date) 1936 EG1 Albania EG1

361 seasoned traveller. The climate in this small town is delightful due to its position at 930 feet above sea level.

Kavaja, an agricultural center, is also the seat of many excellent schools. Tobacco is the [249] main crop in this vicinity and the tobacco leaves are marketed at Kavaja. There are also large fruit groves intercepted by vegetable gardens.

[344] Fier, a rich and prosperous town, is the market place of cereals. As these crops are among the largest in Albania, the wealth of the town is understood. As Fier is only forty minutes from Pojani, the majority of the valuable excavations from Apollonia soon [543] found their way into the artistic museum of Fier. This collection from Apollonia in Pojani is as rich as that from Butrinto.

Lushnja is important in Albanian history as the city wherein that memorable congress convened which confirmed Albania's independence in 1920.

● 504 361 Santa Quaranta (Saranda), a port of southern Albania, lies in that strip of coastline which, by reason of its beauty of scenery and vegetation, merits the name of Riviera of Albania. It is the third port of Albania with

3; Redlich S-3 (no date) 1936 EG1 Albania EG1

a good harbor and here connections may be made with Janina and Florina, Greece, by steamer. This service is very regular and frequent. Also, Butrinto is only two hours distance from this port.

Almost lost among vast gardens, vineyards, orange and olive groves lies Delvina, on the road to Korça. This lovely little town is like a miniature paradise, so pervaded is it by the rich perfumes of flowers and fruit and many ladies have wished that its essence were in bottle form!

Have you ever looked at a miniature water color where the vari-colored roofs visible above tree-tops on a high hill and at the base a river gurgles along and wondered if such a place ever existed? It does. The picturesque little town on the hill is Përmet and the laughing river that goes tumbling along is the Viosa. It has to be seen to be believed.

Of all the towns there is surely not one that has such a tragic past, one so full of willing sacrifices, as has Voskopoj. In 1753 it was one of the largest cities in Albania and now it is a tiny village of about 400 inhabitants. In 1753 this city was a center of culture, of intellectual achievement, with 60,000

2:Edmonds T-3 (1926?) 1927 E13 Balkan Peoples
Albania E61

To the Land of the Eagle

485 When I came down in the morning to get a cup of coffee before leaving for Tirana, I found the waiter asleep in the "coffee-room" with the remains of last night's supper on the uncleared tables and every window tightly shut. The noise I made in rushing to open something and save myself from immediate asphyxiation woke him up, and he arose from his bed—to strain a simile to its utmost limits—like Aphrodite from the waves, completed a scanty toilet with the aid of a comb, and attended to my modest requirements in the way of breakfast. At seven the car came and I departed, nothing loth.

494 [505] The car was a nine-seater, and the other passengers, including several Roman-Catholic priests, were going by it to San Giovanni di Medua, whence a steamer connection is maintained with Bari, the Italian seaport on the opposite 361 side of the Adriatic. *Rome—Bari—San Giovanni di Medua* is the direct route to Albania, and I was accordingly surprised to find the place so small and insignificant. It contained little more, as far as I could see, than a tiny wharf, a custom-house, a police post, and a few single-storied shacks ● 504 —mostly coffee-houses—along the waterfront. The bay being very shallow, the steamer was anchored some distance out, and passengers had to be taken aboard by shore boats. But San Giovanni di Medua is no worse in this respect than the other ports of Albania, Durazzo, Valona, and Santi Quaranta, which all suffer, as I found later, from the same drawback. In none of these places is the water deep enough to allow a vessel to lie at the quay.

2:Edmonds T-3 (1926?) 1927 E13 Balkan Peoples
Albania E 61

CHAPTER XIV

I leave Albania—Montenegro Once More—Pelim Tea—A Hold-up—More Politics—Cettinje to Ragusa—Local Beauties—Barber's Shops—The Austrian Riviera—The Mystery in the Church—Its Explanation—Money's Worth.

SCUTARI is situated, according to the map, at the head of Scutari Lake, and I had therefore expected to find an esplanade or riva with houses facing the water. Actually the lake cannot be seen from the town, and there is no waterfront except at Old Scutari, where a narrow inlet accommodates a few fishing-boats and where there is a small wharf. The reason for this became apparent when I left by the lake steamer on my way home. The shore is merely swamp, and the open water is approached by a tortuous channel which winds for a considerable distance amongst waterweeds, alder scrub and tall rushes. The lake at the Scutari end is, in fact, very shallow, and for a mile or so out looks much more like grass than water.

The morning of my departure was cloudy and wet, and owing to frequent rainstorms which obscured the view I did not see the lake at its best. I was the only passenger and had the little cabin to myself. Here I settled down, and for lack of other occupation wrote up my journal which was, as usual, several days in arrear. Some three hours after our departure we anchored off the north-east shore of